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## **Salisbury Fire Department to Receive Steel I-Beams from 9-11 World Trade Center Site**

*Steel I-Beams Recovered from Ground Zero to Become Part of Local Memorials*

Salisbury, NC\_April 20, 2011 – The Salisbury Fire Department will receive two steel I-beams, recovered during the aftermath of the 9-11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Salisbury Fire Captain Mark Thompson and Firefighter Chet Hedrick will depart for Queens, New York on Wednesday, April 20 and take possession of the pieces of steel the following day. The eight-foot I-beams, weighing approximately 2,000 pounds each, will be returned to Salisbury and be available for public viewing later this year.

Salisbury Fire Chief Bob Parnell explains, "We are honored to receive these pieces of American history as awarded by the Port Authority and the WTC Artifacts Program. Through the dedicated efforts of these organizations, over 1,000 pieces of steel will be distributed before the tenth anniversary of 9-11, later this year." The fire department participated in a year-long application process to receive the recovered steel. To be considered for receipt of trade center artifacts, recipients must agree that the items will not be used for profit or disfigured in any manner. In addition, artifacts must be incorporated into memorial sites or gardens. "One of the I-beams will be integrated into our Salisbury-Rowan Firefighters Memorial site, located at 1400 South Main Street," shares Parnell. "The second beam will become part of a memorial site at the entrance to the Firefighters Training Facility on the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College campus. Our hope is that all who touch and see these artifacts will continue to remember the sincere heroism and selfless acts displayed by our fellow Americans on that fateful day."

Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council shares, "We are sincerely grateful for the opportunity to receive and display these historic artifacts in Salisbury. The tragic memories of 9-11 are forever etched into our hearts and we honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that others might be saved. By reaching out and touching these pieces of recovered World Trade Center steel, our citizens, as well as future generations, will be reminded of the enduring strength of the American people and the resilience of our nation's spirit."

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